



# NEWS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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April 20, 2007

## **CONNECTICUT ARMY NATIONAL GUARD INFANTRY BATTALION RETURNS HOME FROM AFGHANISTAN**

WINDSOR LOCKS, Conn. – Maj. Gen. Thaddeus J. Martin, Adjutant General and Commander of the Connecticut National Guard, announces that the Soldiers from the 102<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Battalion of New Haven will return to Connecticut on Saturday, April 21, 2007, at approximately 3:30 p.m., via two commercial airplanes at the Army Aviation Support Facility in Windsor Locks.

The unit arrived at Fort Bragg, N.C., last week and began the demobilization process. The 102<sup>nd</sup> Infantry mobilized in January 2006, departed Connecticut in January 2006 for Ft. Bragg, N.C. The unit then departed Ft. Bragg on April 17, 2006, and deployed to Afghanistan.

When the unit arrived in Afghanistan they conducted operations at several locations throughout the country. The battalion made enormous contributions to regional security especially in the Ghazni and Laghman provinces in addition to conducting many force protection missions.

The 102<sup>nd</sup> Infantry (Task Force Iron Grays) conducted more than 1,450 combat patrols in 20 named combat operations. The unit played a crucial role in such operations as Mountain Fury, during which the Iron Grays spearheaded the main effort against Taliban militants operating in the Andar District of Ghazni Province.

(MORE)

**CONNECTICUT NATIONAL GUARD**



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The operation resulted in the complete disruption of Taliban activity in the area, permitting freedom of movement by Coalition forces and Afghan National Security Forces.

The unit did lose one of its own during the deployment. Staff Sgt. Joseph E. Phaneuf Jr., 38, of Eastford, Conn., was killed on December 15, 2006, when his armored vehicle struck an improvised explosive device (IED).

The 102d Infantry Battalion is one of the oldest serving units in Connecticut constituted in 1672. The 102nd Infantry Battalion has been involved in major campaigns from the Revolutionary War, Civil War with battles at Bull Run, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, World War I, World War II, Bosnia and Iraq.

The 102<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Battalion unit locations are as follows:

Headquarters, Headquarters Company, 102<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Battalion – New Haven  
Company A, 102<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Battalion – Norwalk  
Company B, 102<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Battalion – Manchester  
Detachment 1, Company B, 102<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Battalion – Rockville  
Company C, 102<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Battalion – Bristol  
Detachment 1, Company C, 102<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Battalion – New Britain  
Company D, 102<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Battalion – Branford

The 102<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Battalion is commanded by Lt. Col. Steven Gilbert of Manchester, Conn.

This event is open to the media.

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